18th July 1953]

Representations from the Salt Workers' Production and Sale Society, Marakanam.

* 659 *Q.*—Sri A. RATHINAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received representations from Salt Workers' Production and Sale Society, Marakanam, South Arcot district, requesting them to grant special privileges to the Harijans for the production of salt at Marakanam and to stop the system of auctioning salt-producing lands, as the Harijans could not compete with the caste Hindus in bidding; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under examination."

Sri A. RATHINAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government would be pleased to assign the waste-lands in Marakanam to the landless poor at least on a co-operative basis for the production of salt? "

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA :—" We have referred the matter to the Board of Revenue and we are awaiting the report of the Board. After the report is received by the Government the matter will be considered."

Sri M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister for Co-operation aware of the fact that the District Collector of South Arcot on several occasions has given those salt producing lands to Caste Hindus in spite of the fact that the workers, mainly Harijans, requested the Collector to give the lands to them? "

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I am not aware, Sir, of what the Collector has done."

Sri S. VEMIAH :—" May I know when the report will be received by the Government and how long will it take for the Government to come to a decision in the matter? May I also know whether similar requests have been made from other parts of the district? "

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA :—" This request was made about two months ago, Sir."

Toddy Tappers' Co-operative Societies in Nuzvid and Vijayavada taluks.

* 660 *Q.*—Sri T. POTHA RAJU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of applications received in the Nuzvid and Vijayavada taluks in Krishna district for registering the Toddy Tappers' Co-operative Societies;